

R 211233Z AUG 97  
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI  
TO AMCONSUL PESHAWAR  
AMCONSUL LAHORE  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
SECSTATE WASHDC 8984

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 001443

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [NARC](#) [PTER](#) [AF](#) [PK](#)  
SUBJECT: TALIBAN REP ON NARCOTICS AND BIN LADEN

[1](#)1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY DOUGLAS B. ARCHARD, CONSUL GENERAL,  
AMCONGEN KARACHI. REASON 1.5(D).

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[1](#)2. (C) CONSUL GENERAL JOINED HIS TALIBAN COUNTERPARTS FOR A BRIEF CHAT DURING A DINNER AT THE CHIEF MINISTER'S AUGUST 20TH. THE TALIBAN CONSUL

[1](#)3. (U) WE WORKED THE SUBJECT AROUND TO NARCOTICS. SAFI ADMITTED THAT SOME -- "A LITTLE"-- OPIUM WAS GROWN IN TALIBAN-CONTROLLED AREA, ESPECIALI

[1](#)4. (C) CONSUL GENERAL ALSO ASKED ABOUT "THAT SAUDI PRINCE," WHO WAS IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFIED AS OSAMA BIN LADEN. SAFI LAUNCHED INTO AN EXPLANATI

[1](#)5. (C) WE ASKED IF HE HAD VIEWED THE PETER ARNETT CNN INTERVIEW WITH BIN LADEN. HE CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE INTERVIEW AND ASKED FOR A SUMMA

[1](#)6. (C) COMMENT: NOT ALL THAT MUCH SUBSTANCE THERE, OR PERHAPS MUCH REALITY BUT WHAT SEEMS CLEAR IS THAT THE TALIBAN ARE GETTING OUR MESSAGES.

ARCHARD